

REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

The Office Action of June 29, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully analyzed. Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-13 are rejected, and claims 14-16 are withdrawn. Applicants amend independent claims 1, 8, and 14 to substitute the phrase "light-absorbing " for the deleted phrase "non-transparent". Support for this amendment is provided at least by Figures 1, 3, 4, and 5 and pages 7-8 of the specification. Claims 9-13 are each amended to correct informalities noted by the Examiner. Thus, no new matter is added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending objections and rejections in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 9-13 stand objected to as containing informalities. These objections are moot in view of the amendments made to claims 9-13 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Withdrawal of the objections of claims 9-13 is therefore respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1 and 6-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,583,560 to Amemiya ("Amemiya"). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons that follow.

Independent claims 1 and 8 (as amended) recite:

wherein at least one of the first barrier rib members and the second barrier rib members is made of a light-absorbing material.

The cited reference does not disclose at least this feature.

Amemiya discloses forming a "partition wall 15 ... in a two-layer structure with a black layer (a light absorption layer) 15' on the display surface side and a white layer 15" on the back surface side, which is configured such that the side walls facing the discharge cells C and C' are almost white (i.e., a light reflection layer)." Amemiya, col. 8, lines 26-31. On the other hand, claim 1 recites only that "at least one of the first barrier rib members and the second barrier rib members is made of a light-absorbing material," which is different than the two-layer (e.g., combined light absorbing layer and light reflective layer) structure of Amemiya.

Therefore, claims 1 and 8 are patentable over the cited references. Since claims 2-7 depend from allowable claim 1 and since claims 9-13 depend from allowable claim 8, all of claims 1-13 are patentable over the cited reference.

Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-13 and to pass claims 1-13 to allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amemiya in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,888,310 to Tadaki, *et al.* ("Tadaki"). This rejection is moot in view of the amendment made to claim 1. Claims 3-5 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amemiya in view of Japanese Patent No.: 2001-118512 to Nishimura, *et al.* ("Nishimura"). This rejection is moot in view of the amendment made to independent claims 1 and 8.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants submit that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated objections and/or grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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